

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments is courteously solicited.

Independent claim 1 has been extensively amended so as to define over the prior art references. Claim 1 has been amended so as to include the subject matter of previously submitted dependent claims 2, 3, and 7. Claim 1 has further been amended so as to specify that the viscosity reduction is effected within the transfer unit. Support for this limitation may be found in paragraph [0024] of the instant specification. It is respectfully submitted that neither of the prior art references taken alone or in combination teach, disclose, suggest or render obvious the subject matter of independent claim 1 as currently amended. Accordingly, the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sala et al.

By 

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I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on June 13, 2006.

